30 more scientists join at Maitri station to carry out various scientific studies.

(c) and (d) No. Sir.

(e) The average annual budget for the maintenance of the infrastructure at Maitri station is Rs. 500.00 lakhs.

(f) and (g) Yes Sir. An additional amount of Rs. 800.00 lakhs have been provided for the proposed new station during the current financial year.

Problems faced by overseas Indians

211. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the major problems faced by overseas Indians in general and the gulf countries based Indians in particular;

(b) whether there has been a marked improvement in dealing with such problems after the creation of this new ministry or still there are lot of teething troubles;

(c) whether Government are aware that many of overseas Indians are ignorant of the right step taken by Government in offering dual citizenship facility to overseas Indians; and

(d) the measures taken or to be taken to make them known and to avail the facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The major problems faced by Overseas Indians in general concern overseas citizenship, incentives and facilities for investment, more flights at cheaper fares on Gulf sector, quota for their children in educational institutions, cheating and exploitation by recruiting agents and foreign employees, inhuman working conditions, change of contract on arrival, settlement of insurance claim etc. etc.

(b) Yes,

(c) No.

(d) Wide publicity has been given to the scheme of overseas citizenship through Indian Missions/Posts, MOIA & MHA's websites and Indian Associations.